

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4630

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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UNCLAS BEIRUT 7036

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

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TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SALZBURG SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PRESS OF JUNE 4 REPORTS MOVEMENTS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SADAT AFTER LEAVING SALZBURG ON INSIDE PAGES. COMMENT ON RESULTS OF SUMMIT IS SLIGHT. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" CONDEMNS U.S. POSITION AS IT SEES IT. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" ACCUSES U.S. OF PROCRASTINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. COLUMNIST BILAL HASAN WRITES IN PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR":

"PREVAILING BELIEF IS THAT EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY ACTS WITHOUT SENSE, WITHOUT REALITY, AND WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC CALCULATION.... ANYTNE WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS SHOULD PERUSE RESULTS OF SALZBURG DISCUSSIONS CAREFULLY. NEWSMEN WHO ATTENDED CONFERENCE SAY AMERICA REFUSED TO (A) DECLARE ITS THINKING REGARDING MIDEAST, (B) DECLARE RESULT IF ITS MIDEAST POLICY REASSESSMENT, (C) PLEDGE TO CONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE OR TO RESORT TO KISSINGER-STYLE UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICY, (D) EXPLAIN WHICH BORDERS IT WOULD PROTECT ISRAEL

IN, (E) DEFINE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF ECONOMIC AID TO EGYPT, (F) ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON DISCUSSIONS. WHAT THEN DID AMERICA AGREE TO? HOW IS IT THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS 'VERY CONSTRUCTIVE' BY KISSINGER AND 'VERY SUCCESSFUL' BY TAHSIN BASHIR? IN VIEW OF THIS AMERICAN REFUSAL, ARAB NEGOTIATOR WAS ONE WHO OFFERED NEW CONCESSIONS. HE EVEN OFFERED MANY MORE CONCESSIONS THAN THOSE ASKED OF HIM."

3. MUHAMMAD DUGHAN, PUBLISHER AND CHIEF EDITOR OF PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" WRITES: "WE ARE TRULY SURPRISED AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAD NOT LEARNED EGYPT'S ATTITUDE BEFORE NOW, ALTHOUGH HE IS ONE WHO SENT KISSINGER, PROVIDED HIM WITH ALMOST TOTAL AUTHORITY, AND GAVE HIM FULL CONFIDENCE. HE COMES TODAY TO LISTEN TO EGYPT'S POSITION AS IF HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. THIS ATTITUDE LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT U.S. IS TRYING TO GAIN MORE TIME IN ORDER TO SECURE MORE ARAB CONCESSIONS FOR ISRAEL'S BENEFIT."
GODLEY

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